

EESW

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - 2025

RECOGNIZING Co-op Cincy and **EXPRESSING** the support of the Mayor and Council for Co-op Cincy during the International Year of Cooperatives as declared by the United Nations.

WHEREAS, cooperatives, or co-ops, are businesses owned and democratically controlled by their members—those who use their services or purchase their goods—ranging in size from the local corner store to Fortune 500 companies, restaurants, grocery stores, utilities, and credit unions; and

WHEREAS, co-ops promote inclusive economic participation through shared ownership, democratic decision-making, and community wealth-building; and

WHEREAS, co-ops serve as stable, long-term employers, reinvesting profits locally and supporting entrepreneurship through workforce training and leadership development; and

WHEREAS, studies show co-ops offer better wages, benefits, and worker retention compared to traditional businesses; and

WHEREAS, Cincinnati is home to over forty cooperatives across sectors including education, finance, food, housing, and worker-owned; and

WHEREAS, co-ops are expanding both through new start-ups and conversions of existing businesses, often filling key community gaps such as job training for returning citizens, green energy solutions, childcare, and food access; and

WHEREAS, co-ops support business succession planning, enabling employees or community members to collectively assume ownership, preserving jobs and local wealth as many business owners retire; and

WHEREAS, other major cities, including New York, Chicago, and Madison, have launched initiatives to grow co-ops through outreach, education, and technical support; and

WHEREAS, Co-op Cincy plays a key role in developing the local co-op ecosystem and previously received a \$100,000 City grant in support of its work; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, Co-op Cincy led a delegation of nearly forty Southwest Ohio leaders—including former Councilmember Greg Landsman's Chief of Staff—to Spain's Mondragon Cooperatives, which employ over 70,000 people, to witness the regional impact of broad-based cooperative development firsthand; and

WHEREAS, Co-op Cincy will host its seventh biennial Union Co-op Symposium on October 17 and 18, 2025, welcoming over 200 participants from over 60 cities around the U.S. and multiple continents, and showcases Co-op Cincy's role in shaping the national union worker cooperative movement; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations has declared 2025 the Year of Cooperatives, and the City joins in recognizing the value of cooperatives in advancing inclusive, equitable development for all, including women, people of color, Indigenous Peoples, and individuals with disabilities; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. The Mayor and this Council hereby recognize Co-op Cincy during the International Year of Cooperatives as declared by the United Nations.

Section 2. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and that a copy be provided to Co-op Cincy through the office of Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney.

Passed: _____, 2025

Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk

Submitted by Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney